

Gustavo Adolfo Rol: A Brief Introduction to His Thinking – An Initial Approach

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In the following link - a Facebook group managed by the author of this text - you'll find additional information and subtitled videos about Rol in English, Spanish, German, and French:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/3726150134197811/>

Gustavo Adolfo Rol (International)

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In case of citing the text, please reference the source.**

This text provides a concise introduction to the profile of Gustavo Adolfo Rol, a prominent figure in Italy who remains relatively unknown internationally. The author, Angelo Melli, seeks to make information about Rol accessible to English-speaking audiences, offering insights into the themes, perspectives, and interpretations surrounding his life and work. While these pages cannot claim to "fully address" the complexities of Rol's profile, they are intended as a starting point for further exploration. Much of the content is drawn from the work of biographer and researcher Franco Rol, whose consultation and generous support have significantly contributed to the development of this text.

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Gustavo Adolfo Rol: A Brief Introduction to His Thinking – An Initial Approach

Who was Gustavo Adolfo Rol?

On June 20, 1903, Gustavo Adolfo Rol was born in Italy, in the city of Turin. He was one of the most renowned and important figures of the past century, attracting people from all over the world and from all walks of life. From ordinary individuals to heads of state, everyone who met him guaranteed to have witnessed events that were, to say the least, extraordinary.

According to Rol's own words, these events were nothing more than experiments that are part of science:

My modest experiments are part of science.

They are things that, in the future, all people will be able to accomplish.¹

The author of these pages addresses the reader who is in a period of spiritual search, embarking on an inner journey, or those simply delving into esoteric-exoteric reading, or those who are simply curious about incredible phenomena. From here, through these brief

¹ Rol, Franco (2012): *Il simbolismo di Rol*, [The Symbolism of Rol] 3rd ed., Lulu. p. 23. The translation of the phrases said by Rol in various interviews and articles was made directly by the writer, while in some cases the texts translated into English come directly from the official website www.gustavorol.org

introductory pages, it is hoped to provide a few hints on where to begin analyzing the profile of Gustavo Adolfo Rol.

The purpose, therefore, is not so much to showcase the experiments, but to explore the thinking behind the experiments. We start with the following questions, which will be the leitmotif of the following pages: Who really was Gustavo Adolfo Rol? What was the origin of his experiments and what did he show to the world? What do the witnesses report?

To talk about Rol and adequately answer these questions, these few pages are certainly not enough. However, the idea is to provide the reader with introductory information to gain a clearer understanding of Rol's thinking, using, to avoid misunderstandings, Rol's own words from various authors and authoritative sources. The purpose, therefore, is not so much to showcase the experiments, but to explore the thinking behind the experiments.

Rol came from a wealthy family of the upper middle class in Turin. He worked in a bank during his youth and later as an antique dealer and painter. He became known to the world thanks to his experiments in the field of the paranormal, which he conducted for almost 70 years. There were 50 different categories of experiments, to name just a few: clairvoyance, telepathy, materialization of objects, healings and therapeutic interventions, bilocation, xenoglossy, remote viewing, and especially paintings and cards that transform. A range of possibilities all gathered in one person. But what exactly is this all about? Rol, through his experiments or possibilities,² as he always insisted on calling them, consistently helped people in need—free of charge and never having profited from them—in the most diverse situations. Even through seemingly playful or nonsensical situations, it appears that Rol, through his experiments, led people to reflect on the nature of things.³

He always repeated that the "wonders" he performed in his experiments were merely possibilities that all people on earth could achieve, once they were ready to set aside their personal interests.

² Even if it may seem redundant to the reader, the repetition of some concepts and Rol's point of view will be repeated several times to avoid misunderstandings.

³ Lorenzo Rappelli in: Rol - *A world behind the world* (2007) Directed by Bongiorno, Niccolò [Documentary]. Milan, CA: Allegria Films SRL. It is a documentary rich in valuable testimonies and quality content, filmed by Nicolo Bongiorno, in which, among the many noteworthy witnesses, a friend of Rol also speaks; the lawyer Lorenzo Rappelli explains the motivations that drove Rol to conduct his experiments (from minute 34:35 - 35:12).

«At the core of my abilities is the renunciation of pride, money, and ambition. »⁴

In addition to this, Rol particularly emphasized the importance of purity of heart:

*«Even if I made a single penny from one of my experiments, I know everything would be over.
What I do, I must do for others. »⁵*

Glimpses of the Past: Some Encounters with Gustavo Adolfo Rol in the Previous Century

To give an idea of Rol's significance and the role he played in the last century, it is enough to observe how, now for many years, discussions about the "Rol phenomenon" have been increasing not only in Italy but also abroad. As mentioned before, people from all walks of life and high society sought to meet him to ask for help or advice. And everyone unanimously confirmed his abilities and "wonders." Among the many names, the famous director Franco Zeffirelli stands out, for example:

“Gustavo Rol is a man God has sent among us to make us better.”⁶

Or, it is said that the French President Charles de Gaulle once told one of his ministers:

“That man can read a mind and we cannot risk strangers to know French State secrets.”⁷

The well-known journalist Roberto Gervaso also spoke about Rol, and there is an interview with him that will be analyzed later:

⁴ Lugli, Remo (2011): *Gustavo Rol Una vita di prodigi*, [Gustavo Rol: A Life of Wonders] 3rd ed., Roma: S.T.A.R. p. 24. Remo Lugli has been close to Gustavo Adolfo Rol for many years, taking part to his famous "experiments." He worked as a renowned journalist for several Italian newspapers, personally witnessing numerous experiments described in the book, providing accurate and engaging details.

⁵ Ibidem.

⁶ Statement made during the television program "Domenica In," Raiuno, on 01/11/1987, by the renowned director Franco Zeffirelli (also the author of the famous film Jesus of Nazareth). For those who wish to delve deeper, the short video of the program and the entire call:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ci02OsmjQvQ&ab_channel=RosaSteiner [Accessed 2024, May 15].

⁷ Bazzoli, L., Rol l'incredibile. L'uomo più misterioso del mondo, Domenica del Corriere, [Rol the Incredible. The most mysterious man in the world, in Newspaper Domenica del Corriere], 17/01/1979. Additionally, the author, Franco Rol, reports: "The first part of the sentence, which I put in parentheses, was added by Renzo Allegri in 1986 (Rol the Incredible, p. 9, which coincidentally has the same title as Bazzoli's article) and might be apocryphal, although it is coherent in meaning and related to an event mentioned by Bazzoli, in which De Gaulle supposedly witnessed the reading of a sealed letter."

*“... [Rol] is the most indecipherable and fascinating enigma I have ever come across.”*⁸

And also well-known figures in the industrial world, such as the former managing director of the automotive company FIAT, Cesare Romiti:

*“Rol escapes our possibility of comprehension. He is a mystery.”*⁹

These are just a few examples of the many well-known people who witnessed Rol's experiments. Among the other notable figures Rol met were Padre Pio of Pietrelcina and Queen Elizabeth of England, as well as the scientist and Nobel Prize-winning physicist Albert Einstein, who personally attended some of Rol's experiments.

Finally, we must not forget some great figures in the arts, such as the renowned American composer John Cage or the acclaimed director Federico Fellini, who later became a close friend of Rol:

*“My life is divided into before Rol and after Rol”.*¹⁰

Some Witnesses and Experts in Prestidigitation on Rol's Experiments

Now one might wonder: who exactly was this person? Someone who has been dedicated to studying and researching the figure of Gustavo Rol for over twenty years and is still active in publishing about him is the author Franco Rol. He is a biographer, witness, and distant cousin of Gustavo Adolfo Rol, to whom he has dedicated numerous volumes in Italian and other languages, as well as articles in magazines, prefaces, afterwords, and appendices in other authors' works.

Through careful archival work and research, Franco Rol has clarified several errors in some books published by other authors, thereby making Rol's biography clearer. Among other

⁸ Gervaso, R., Rol: «I miracoli? Ci credo e ne vedo», Corriere della Sera, [Rol: "Miracles? I believe in them and I see them," Newspaper Corriere della Sera], 31/12/1978, p. 8. In the central part of this work, some parts of an interview between Rol and Gervaso will be presented.

⁹ Brambilla, M., Cesare Romiti: «Così mi ritrovai in tasca una lettera di Valletta scritta dall'aldilà», Sette (settimanale del Corriere della Sera) [So I found in my pocket a letter from Valletta written from the afterlife, Sette (weekly magazine of Corriere della Sera), 27/04/2000, p. 137.

¹⁰ Rol, Franco. (2022). Fellini & Rol. Una realtà magica [A Magical Reality]. All other quotes from well-known characters just mentioned are taken from the well-known official website gustavorol.org, in the news section of its old version: <https://2000-2013.gustavorol.org/home.html> and in the new version at: <https://gustavorol.org/index.php/it/wikipedia-alternativa> where the sources are listed in the original references [Accessed 2024, May 1].

things, the scholar has collected an enormous amount of data and direct testimonies over the past years, which have been cataloged according to the type of Rol's experiments, totaling 50 different categories. All this by providing firsthand information and data, with detailed explanations and always citing reliable sources. An author who certainly provides significant information. In fact, a good deal of the content in this text comes from the website maintained by him and from some of his publications.¹¹

In researching Rol, one of the crucial points between those who believe or do not believe in Rol's abilities is precisely the reliance on testimonies from those who knew Rol and those who did not.

Another frequently discussed topic about Rol is whether his experiments were authentic or merely the work of a stage magician or a prestidigitator. In some of his research, Franco Rol proves the baseless allegations of skeptics and scientists who deny Rol's abilities, even though they have never met him or observed his experiments without prejudice.

It is generally said that people capable of detecting any trick or deception, and whom we should rely on—such as in the case of Rol's experiments with cards that transform or change suit according to the participant's request—are illusionists or individuals who practice magic tricks/prestidigitation. But it turns out that it is precisely the illusionists who work in the field of prestidigitation and who have known Rol or witnessed his experiments who confirm the authenticity and the non-use of tricks in the phenomena performed by Rol. Rol himself always distanced himself from those who called him a magician, psychic, or used similar terms:

“When it comes to me, I don't want terms like magician, medium, séances, afterlife, and such to be used.”¹²

Among the various prestidigitators confirming Rol's abilities are Carlo Buffa di Perrero and his Father Ermanno, amateur prestidigitators, who were among the founders of the Circle of Friends of Magic in Turin.¹³

In particular, it seems that Carlo Buffa always tried, in a friendly manner, to challenge Rol during the card experiments. He did this through requests and methods that would prevent

¹¹ Please refer to the following website, from which various contents presented in this article are sourced: gustavorol.org

¹² Rol, Franco (2012): *Il simbolismo di Rol*, [The Symbolism of Rol] 3rd ed., Lulu Press, p. 23.

¹³ The following testimonies, provided by various magicians and professionals in the field, are based on their direct experiences and can be viewed on the following YouTube playlist: <https://studio.youtube.com/playlist/PLihXmvzU0xW0KiftVNMp53jsQBaeWuzqS/edit> [Accessed 2024, May 1].

any magician from succeeding in the trick. For example, in response to Rol's proposal on how to display the cards, Carlo Buffa recalls trying, in a friendly manner, to challenge Rol with an atypical request, chosen on the spot, on how to make the cards appear, specifically torn:

“I could have asked for them to be turned over, shuffled, arranged in order by suits—hearts, diamonds, clubs...I could have asked him eight thousand things, and I asked him the most impossible thing... 'this time I'll fool you...!'. I said, 'I want them broken, torn.'” You know that breaking a card, even just one, is an effort. He [Rol] looked at me with a phony smile, I opened this deck of cards, and they were all torn. I still have the deck at home; I keep it as a souvenir because it is something impossible to do.”

Through this testimony, one can clearly understand how Rol was able to make the cards appear in extraordinary conditions, agreed upon on the spot, and this is not replicable by prestidigitators, as confirmed by Carlo Buffa himself,¹⁴ who also points out that what Rol accomplished fit into different patterns, not being part of prestidigitation: “*He couldn't falsify a deck of cards; we were sitting around a small table*” and also, “*We accepted him for what he was, we knew he was doing something superior.*”¹⁵

Another example is Dr. Giuseppe Vercelli, a psychologist and psychotherapist, professor of Sports Psychology and Human Performance at the University of Turin, known for the creation of the S.F.E.R.A. model. Vercelli is also the Head of the Psychological Area for the well-known sports club Juventus F.C. He practiced prestidigitation as a hobby and critically observed Rol's card experiments, expressing a positive and favorable judgment, also emphasizing the fact that Rol never touched the cards.¹⁶

Another well-known figure is Elio De Grandi, known by his stage name Alexander, who met Rol. He is one of the greatest Italian illusionists, particularly famous in the 70s and 80s, who visited Rol's home several times, and on various occasions gave positive judgments on an episode of clairvoyance-precognition performed by Rol concerning Alexander himself.

¹⁴ Transcribed testimony, available at the following link, connected to the official site on Gustavo Rol: <https://2000-2013.gustavorol.org/buffadiperrero2003.pdf> For more information in English, please refer to the official website gustavorol.org and to the following YouTube channel with English-subtitled videos, maintained by the author of this text: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLihXmvzU0xW2o53LeddVjbaWpq-jS1o-9> [Both accessed 2024, May 15].

¹⁵ Ibidem.

¹⁶ Direct testimony from Dr. Vercelli, available at the following link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B0-zuUdZ_-Q&ab_channel=RosaSteiner [Accessed 2024, May 15].

Finally, even the famous magician of the time, Tony Binarelli, attended Rol's experiments, reporting: *"Nothing to say, it is an experiment that I would never know how to do and that I could not explain."*¹⁷

It should be emphasized that all these people, besides being part of the prestidigitation field, have a solid professional reputation and culture, as well as having observed the experiments with a critical eye. Therefore, they are not naive people.

Among the various experts in the field analyzing Rol's abilities is the mentalist Aroldo Lattarulo, a scholar of techniques and psychological approaches that fall within the repertoire of prestidigitators and illusionists.

He provides several key arguments confirming the genuineness of Gustavo Rol's abilities. This reaffirms the fact that those who attended Rol's experiments were noteworthy individuals:

*"[Regarding Rol case] We are faced with testimonies that, to a 'modern', 'scientific', 'rational' mind, appear as figments of the imagination. And yet, these testimonies are narrated by people in full possession of their mental faculties and—I'd say more—often by people who are highly successful in their professional fields. This is never an indication of limited intellectual abilities. Quite the contrary."*¹⁸

And again:

*"I find it highly unlikely that all those who witnessed Gustavo Rol's wonders are gullible individuals prone to memory lapses or hallucinations."*¹⁹

Another interesting point is how the people participating in the experiments tried to challenge Rol: *"...we emphasize the fact that the witnesses to Gustavo Rol's phenomena were unwilling to 'believe' preliminarily. On the contrary, they tried in every way to find a system to outsmart the gentleman from Turin."* As it happened, for example, with Carlo Buffa.

¹⁷ Binarelli, Tony (2008): Quinta dimensione [Fifth Dimension], Roma: Mediterranee. For those who want to delve into the details of the experiments conducted by Rol, witnessed by various experts, and seek further details and bibliography, please refer to the official site maintained by Franco Rol, www.gustavorol.org, and the following YouTube channel (with content in English and also Spanish, German, and French subtitles): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B0-zuUdZ_-Q&ab_channel=RosaSteiner [Accessed 2024, May 18].

¹⁸ Franco, Rol (2024): *L' uomo dell' impossibile* [The Unbelievable Gustavo Adolfo Rol] volume X, Lulu Press, p. 408.

¹⁹ Franco, Rol (2024): *L' uomo dell' impossibile* [The Unbelievable Gustavo Adolfo Rol] volume X, Lulu Press, p. 410.

Another key argument is the point where it is mentioned that Rol did not manipulate the cards used during the experiments. Several detractors claim that Rol could have manipulated the cards and prepared them beforehand. But to dispel any doubt, Rol himself asked the guests to bring their own decks of cards or invited those who were to participate in the experiment to go and personally buy brand-new decks of cards. Once they returned to Rol, they would unwrap the decks of cards, sealed in cellophane, in front of everyone present. As Lattarulo confirms, “*Rol asks to go and purchase decks of cards .This demonstrates that he did not need prepared or rigged decks in any way.*”²⁰

How could one perform a card trick without ever touching the cards? And as mentioned earlier, Vercelli, along with others, confirms that Rol never touched the cards. Regarding what Lattarulo writes about Rol's card experiment:

*“It is a very simple but also very nice magic trick that, however, requires one condition: the deck must always be handled by the magician. In fact, if a spectator were to handle the deck, they would be inclined to check the cards at the end of the effect and, obviously, would discover the trick.”*²¹

Hence, thousands of people who witnessed and held the cards in their hands (or had previously checked them), during and after the experiments, never reported any manipulation.²² Therefore, Rol's figure does not fit at all into the patterns of prestidigitation, and his experiments are not comparable to those of the illusionists: “*Rol was a unique phenomenon, not comparable to any mentalist or illusionist.*”²³

Finally, another key point to keep in mind is that Rol did not perform his experiments to put on a show, but to provide a demonstration²⁴ — as evidenced by other audio files and

²⁰ Franco, Rol (2024): *L' uomo dell' impossibile* [The Unbelievable Gustavo Adolfo Rol] volume X, Lulu Press, p. 412.

²¹ Franco, Rol (2024): *L' uomo dell' impossibile* [The Unbelievable Gustavo Adolfo Rol] volume X, Lulu Press, p. 412-413. One might then ask if the person who bought or brought the cards was in collusion with Rol. Then how do you explain the trusted and reputable guests who visited Rol for the first time? For what reason would he stage such an act? Rol was wealthy and certainly did not need to sell tricks or seek fame, from which he always distanced himself. Were all the prominent figures or heads of state who came to visit him somehow in collusion with him for some strange reason? The author distances himself from these hypotheses.

For those who want to delve deeper into the matter, refer to what Lattarulo writes: ...when evaluating Rol's experiments—and especially those that most resemble card magic effects—all the narrated elements (which are crucial) must be considered, avoiding basing one's evaluations solely on the notion that "if it could be done this way, then he did it this way." The issue of Rol's experiments... is much more complex than reducing it to "that magician friend of mine can do the same." Also, because a statement like that... hardly ever—if we are being generous, almost never—corresponds to the truth. In: Franco, Rol (2024): *L' uomo dell' impossibile volume X*, Lulu Press, p. 410.

²³ Franco, Rol (2024): *L' uomo dell' impossibile* [The Unbelievable Gustavo Adolfo Rol] volume X, Lulu Press, p. 412.

²⁴ Ibidem.

testimonies available online — of the possibilities of the spirit, the hidden realities that surround man, and especially, as will be seen later, the figure of God behind the experiments.

So, who was Rol really? How did he see himself in all this context? In the next section, the direct words of Rol himself will be presented.

A Thought by Gustavo Adolfo Rol

«I necessarily must act with 'spontaneity', almost 'according to the impulse of an unknown order' as Goethe said. I have defined myself 'the drainpipe that brings the water falling from the roof'. It is therefore not the drainpipe that must be analyzed, but instead the water and the reasons for which 'that rain' is manifested. Studying these kinds of phenomena at their conclusions does not permit establishing their essence, but instead one must look higher to where the 'intelligent spirit' that is already a part of that Wonder that must not necessarily be identified with God to recognize its existence.

In the Wonder, there is the Harmony encapsulated by Everything, and this definition is valid for those who admit and those who deny God. »²⁵

This definition by Rol is just a part of a letter, published in the newspaper La Stampa, in which Rol responds to the appeals and requests of notable figures of the time. It should be mentioned that Rol did not wish to be the center of attention and always tried to keep a low profile throughout his life, rarely speaking in public, except on a few occasions when he deemed it necessary.

By observing the definition, it is possible to understand some of the important "pieces," though not all, that make up the picture of Rol. He primarily considers himself a means, a tool, a drainpipe as Rol liked to define himself. And he points out to the reader that what needs to be analyzed is "*the water and the reasons why 'that Rain' manifests*," that is, the true source of the experiments and the reasons and methods by which they manifest. The drainpipe is certainly part of this process, but it has a more secondary role—not to be underestimated—but the "*rain*," the "All-Divine," is fundamental.

²⁵ Letter by Rol published in the newspaper La Stampa: Rol, G.A.; Rol, G.A., *La Scienza non può ancora analizzare lo Spirito* [Science Cannot Yet Analyze the Spirit], 03/09/1978, p. 3. The translation comes from the official website gustavorol.org In some videos online on the previously mentioned YouTube channels, the word "gutter" is used instead of "drainpipe." For practicality and to avoid confusion, only "drainpipe" will be used from now on.

Other fundamental concepts to keep in mind to understand Rol are the figure of God (Rol was indeed a Catholic with a great faith in God), the concept of the "*summarized Harmony of the Whole*," the concept of the Wonderful, and the "intelligent spirit." These points will be explored further later on.

Rol rarely gave interviews. This was because he always complained, even more so, about how almost all the journalists who wanted to meet him were only interested in the scoop, the paranormal phenomena produced, and not in the deep meaning, the reasons, logos, and metaphysical aspects behind the experiments.

Rol often expressed his frustration about this. In fact, Rol tried to encourage the people around him to investigate "*how and why certain wonderful events occur*,"²⁶ and to do so, he also gave a few rare interviews. However, the vast majority of journalists, only hungry for a scoop, merely used Rol's figure to sell and make news, providing the public with sensationalistic explanations that do not require thinking about the deep truths hidden behind them: [Rol:] "...*You journalists prefer to exalt the power of man more than that of God.*" [Jacobelli] Then, walking away as if muttering, [Rol] added this beautiful phrase: "*Perhaps because God doesn't make the news.*"²⁷

Fortunately, there have been exceptions. Some renowned writers and journalists have left us testimonies and articles about Rol, rich in details and truths about Rol's thoughts. Among these, for example, are Remo Lugli, Dino Buzzati, Pitigrilli, and Paola Giovetti.

Rol "self-reveals" through the journalist Renzo Allegri

Another vital source for understanding Rol are undoubtedly the articles published by journalist Renzo Allegri in the magazine Gente but drafted by Rol before publication through a kind of "special cooperation." Allegri is a journalist who works in investigative journalism and popularization, known for his interviews with various figures in the world of the paranormal.

He interviewed Rol on behalf of the magazine Gente, publishing five articles in the 1970s. What makes these articles different from those published by other journalists? The crucial aspect of these articles is that Rol himself modified and rewrote the articles drafted by

²⁶ Ibidem.

²⁷ Article collected by Remo Lugli from a letter sent to the newspaper La Stampa by Jader Jacobelli in: Lugli, Remo (2011): *Gustavo Rol Una vita di prodigi* [Gustavo Rol A Life of Wonders], 3rd ed., Roma: S.T.A.R. p. 164.

Allegrì before publication. This was done with the specific aim of avoiding the usual misunderstandings he faced, namely, as mentioned earlier, being described as a sideshow phenomenon, which happened with most journalists.

Rol wanted to be sure he could convey his message and thoughts without altering his words, and this fortunately allows us to have texts of enormous importance today. According to the studies of Franco Rol, Allegrì himself reports: *“I returned to Turin and, as agreed, presented him the article for him to read. Rol took a quick look at my typed pages and asked me to leave them with him until the next day so he could thoroughly evaluate the content. The next day, when I went to retrieve my manuscript, I was faced with an unpleasant surprise. Rol had rewritten the article, changing both the content and the form. That article was no longer mine. It reflected what he had told me, the events I had witnessed, but it had a different angle, a different tone, a different way of presenting things. Very little of what I had written had remained.”*²⁸

It should also be noted that the article was rewritten by Rol before being published, while the headlines, subheadings, and captions — with sensationalist titles that Rol did not agree with at all — were chosen by the editorial team based on Allegrì's suggestions.²⁹

Continuing, these articles are of enormous importance for truly understanding Rol's figure and a significant part of his thinking. Put together, they constitute a kind of "semi-autobiography," in which every line should be read with particular attention. It is unfortunate that it was not possible to write more articles.

Due to space constraints, it is not possible to reproduce here the entire article in which Rol "introduces" himself; however, important insights concerning his profile will be provided, quoting directly from his words in the first article titled "While in Turin, he is photographed in America." It is worth repeating, as confirmed by Allegrì, that Rol based his writing on true data collected by Allegrì: *"It reflected what he had told me, the events I had witnessed."*

In this article, Rol reveals himself to the public without focusing on the phenomena: *“The main activity of his existence has indeed become helping others. He never backs down when someone turns to him, pressed by moral difficulties or other sufferings.”*³⁰

²⁸ Franco, Rol (2023): *L' uomo dell' impossibile [The Unbelievable Gustavo Adolfo Rol] volume VI*, Lulu Press, p. 299.

²⁹ Ibidem. To analyze the upcoming phrases spoken by Rol, frequent reference will be made to parts of this single article: 'Mentre è a Torino lo fotografano in America' [While in Turin, He is Photographed in America], authored by Renzo Allegrì and published in the magazine *Gente*, issue 10 of 05.03.1977.

³⁰ Ibidem. p. 304.

Another interesting point is his visits to the sick. *“He goes to the hospital every day to help those who are suffering and to give hope to those who are unwell.”*³¹

To give the reader a better idea of Rol's work in hospitals, an episode is recounted here. One of the many witnesses to Rol's abilities is the journalist Marco Neirotti, who, through Ternavasio's book, recounts a healing he observed firsthand:

*“Rol was just passing by, since he was on his usual rounds to see patients. Then people often said that his visits were more effective than morphine, and that afterwards there was no more need to rely on medication. Rol put his hand near my father's back without touching him in any way, causing only a strange vibration and a wave of heat. Before taking his leave, I remember it as if it were right now, he said to my father, “I do not think you need the operation now.”*³²

And indeed, as Neirotti himself later confirms: *“Just to be sure, Tino Neirotti asked to be given another radiology exam prior to the operation scheduled for the next day. The kidney stone has completely vanished, as if it had been bombarded with a shock wave from a lithotripter. The doctors were in shock, and they sent him home immediately. He never had any problems of that kind again.”*³³

And in all of this, it should be emphasized again that Rol never wanted anything in return or received any compensation.

Another example, still in the medical field, involves the well-known doctors and surgeons of the time. As Catterina Ferrari, a friend and executor of Rol's will, reports: *“Many doctors wanted him by their side during the most difficult surgeries. They said he guided their scalpel. Achille Mario Dogliotti, Sesia, Quaini. Once there was a tumor: the surgeon had finished, but he said: dig further, deeper, there's more. And he was right.”*³⁴

These are just a few of the many healings in which Rol participated. With these examples, the intention is not to claim that Rol was just a healer, but rather to provide a more concrete idea of his work.

³¹ Ibidem.

³² *49 Possibilities: III - Therapeutic interventions*. (n.d.). Gustavorol.org. Retrieved June 12, 2024, from <https://gustavorol.org/index.php/en/49-possibilities-iii-therapeutic-interventions> [Accessed 2024, May 10]

³³ Ibidem.

³⁴ Ibidem. These are prominent figures, doctors, and well-known qualified individuals in the Italian medical field. The following testimony is also recommended. *www.youtube.com*. (n.d.). *Catterina Ferrari racconta Gustavo A. Rol (2)*. [online] Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=IsjKB1kr4MQ> [Accessed 3 Apr. 2024].

Returning to another concept described by Rol in Allegri's article:

« I point out to him that some of these scholars, after approaching him and being astonished by the richness of the phenomena observed, regretted the fact that he does not allow his astonishing personality to be subjected to a thorough scientific study. »³⁵

Here, too, Franco Rol highlights Rol's use of the word "*personality*" instead of mentioning his phenomena. In this way, Rol indicates what should be analyzed, or at least what plays a significant role, specifically pointing to the state of consciousness.

It would seem, therefore, that personality and way of being play a key role in the phenomena generated by Rol, that is the possibilities, but these take on a secondary role, being more or less an automatic consequence of the evolution (or rather acquisition) of a state of consciousness,³⁶ which can be based on an initiatory and spiritual path existing in various traditions. This point will be revisited later.

Some of Rol's Contacts with Science

Another often-debated topic is why Rol did not subject himself to scientific scrutiny or collaborate with science. On the contrary, it seems that Rol always sought collaboration with science, emphasizing that one day it would be science itself that would confirm the phenomena generated by Rol.

It must be said that Rol sought contact with a suitable scientific approach and hoped to have the right scientific support, something that unfortunately did not happen as it should have. A great opportunity to bring mankind closer to the absolute could not flourish. An example is given here for the reader: [Rol:] *“But let science give me a scientific collaborator, then in the course of the collaboration they will realize there is no trick! Thus, I could have opened a door to science, and Piero Angela closed that door! He closed it!”³⁷*

³⁵ Franco, Rol (2023): *L' uomo dell' impossibile [The Unbelievable Gustavo Adolfo Rol] volume VI*, Lulu Press, p. 305.

³⁶ gustavorol.org. (n.d.). Gustavo Adolfo Rol – The Enlightened. [online] Available at: <https://gustavorol.org/index.php/en/> [Accessed 3 Apr. 2024].

³⁷ The audio file comes from the archive of Giuditta Dembech, also available at the following link: www.youtube.com. (n.d.). *Gustavo Adolfo Rol: Le menzogne di Piero Angela e il rapporto con la scienza*. [Gustavo Adolfo Rol: The lies of Piero Angela and the relationship with science]. [online] Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q5oI5mgtCKk> [Accessed 3 Apr. 2024].

Piero Angela, a journalist and well-known science communicator of the time who also worked on several well-made documentaries, had the opportunity to directly witness Rol's experiments. He obtained tangible evidence — firsthand — of the success of Rol's experiments; however, Angela deliberately lied about the results of Rol's experiments, questioning the authenticity of what he did in his book.

During the meeting with Angela, despite a skeptical attitude towards Rol, he initially had no objections to what he observed. However, in a book published in 1978, he denied the authenticity of Rol's experiments. Angela claimed that, in the absence of a magician's control, the phenomena could be seen as simple magic tricks or hypnosis.³⁸ Continuing, it turns out that Angela himself witnessed significant episodes, also confirmed by the journalist Nevio Boni in an article published in the newspaper *La Stampa* around the late 1970s.³⁹

For example, an experiment in remote reading conducted by Rol with a book that was in Boston. Angela himself, at that moment, asked to use the phone at Rol's house to call a friend in the American city, in order to test Rol, and he confirmed the remote reading on the spot.

Additionally, journalist Boni in the article also reports the materialization of Rol's signature on documents and checkbooks that Angela had with him in his pocket during the meetings. Unfortunately, Angela did not mention this in his book. Furthermore, Boni notes that Angela did not dispute the published article, providing further confirmation of how things actually happened. Due to this truth being missed and hidden by journalist Angela, the scientific community unfortunately lost a great opportunity to get closer to understanding Rol's experiments. It is hoped that in the future, this topic can be more explored.

Another direct contact with science occurred through Professor Regge. Tullio Regge was a physicist and professor at the University of Turin and witnessed Rol's experiments on more than one occasion. Here is an account of a conversation during a card experiment. Rol recounts the course of the experiment to a journalist:

³⁸ Here too, the author points out that it is the magicians themselves, as seen in the initial part of this work, who confirm the authenticity of the experiments conducted by Rol.

³⁹ Franco Rol. *Gustavo Adolfo Rol e Piero Angela* [Gustavo Adolfo Rol and Piero Angela]. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XaVFUvslBYs&ab_channel=FrancoRol [Accessed 2024, June 2].

Gustavo Rol: «*Tullio Regge came to see me, accompanied by a famous professor of medicine, with his wife and another person. They brought the cards and made me keep my hands behind my back, and he shuffled them under the table. And then I said to him:*

Rol: "Think of a card. Just think of it."

He [Regge] says: "I've thought of it."

Rol: "Then put that deck you've shuffled on the table."

Regge: "Can I change the card?"

Rol: "Go ahead and change it." So he thought of another card.

Regge: "Can I shuffle again?"

Rol: "Shuffle!" I still had my hands behind the backrest. Well, then he put the deck he had shuffled on the table.

Rol: "Cut it." He [Regge] cuts it, and the ace of clubs comes out. I say, "Did you think of the ace of clubs?"

Regge: "Yes, a coincidence ... Do it again!"

Rol: "I am not God! You came, but I am not God to be able to do it again!" ».⁴⁰

Yet, it is strange, despite Regge having witnessed the success of the experiment, he appeals to the judgment of magicians. However, as seen earlier, it was these very magicians who confirmed the authenticity of Rol's phenomena... The confirmation by magicians of the authenticity of the phenomena produced by Rol, as seen earlier, exists and comes from experts in this field.

In the following years, Regge reported that he was unable to make a positive or negative judgment on Rol: "*I do not have... the elements of judgment necessary to criticize or endorse Dr. Rol's experiments.*"⁴¹

I leave it to the readers to draw their own conclusions. It should only be noted that there are other analyses and testimonies from experts in the field in favor of Rol—who did not know him personally but still give a positive judgment—which are not included in these pages, but hopefully will be developed in another text.

⁴⁰ Rol, Franco. (2012). *L'Uomo dell'Impossibile* [The Unbelievable Gustavo Adolfo Rol], 1rd ed., Vol. I. Lulu Press, p. 143-144.

⁴¹ Letter from Regge published in the newspaper 'La Stampa' on 11/07/1983 cited in: 2000-2013.gustavorol.org. (n.d.). Inversely Proportional Skepticism. [online] Available at: <https://2000-2013.gustavorol.org/scetticismo.htm> [Accessed 3 Apr. 2024].

Now, after presenting the experiment to the reader, and especially the conversation with Professor Regge, the following words written by Rol in one of his articles written in the third person and in dialogic form for Gente become clearer:

*I point out to him that some of these scholars, after approaching him and being astonished by the richness of the phenomena observed, regretted the fact that he does not allow his disconcerting personality to be subjected to a thorough scientific study. 'The real reason for my refusal,' says Rol, 'is that I am not at all able to control 'these things' at my will. In fact, when I try to, I immediately feel inhibited. I act on impulse, as if driven by a suggestion that evokes in me a kind of indescribable joy. Everything I do is spontaneous, directed to the benefit of someone or done for some reason that time will later reveal.'*⁴²

In this sentence, Rol not only indicates the key factor of scientifically analyzing his personality (and not the paranormal phenomena) but also points out the factors that science must take into account, namely: a) the fact that he was not able to control his abilities at will, b) that he had to act spontaneously, and c) that the more he had been pushed to create these phenomena, the more this process was inhibited.

It seems that a harmony of different factors is necessary, which involve ways of being and transcendental aspects of the human being itself. For a better understanding of these concepts, please refer to the website of the biographer Franco Rol. Remaining in the scientific domain to demonstrate how Rol sought the support of science, he states in another context, «*Certainly a relationship between spirit and matter exists: Science does not know it, I barely sense it and I can demonstrate it, but not as I want and as I am asked to do.*»⁴³ And further: «*The relationship of the mind with the extraordinary is of such fragility that it can discourage even the most tenacious scientist.*»⁴⁴ It is, therefore, a field of research in which science must certainly be open to new approaches, breaking out of classical patterns.

Among other things, it is interesting to note how some researchers who analyze paranormal phenomena also confirm the difficulty of research involving individuals capable of extraordinary phenomena when they are required to repeat such phenomena consecutively.

⁴² Franco, Rol (2023). *L' uomo dell' impossibile [The Unbelievable Gustavo Adolfo Rol]* volume VI, Lulu Press, p. 304.

⁴³ Letter by Rol published in the newspaper La Stampa: Rol, G.A.,: *Rol, G.A., La Scienza non può ancora analizzare lo Spirito* [Science Cannot Yet Analyze the Spirit], 03/09/1978, p. 3.

⁴⁴ Letter by Rol published in the newspaper La Stampa: *Rol, G.A., Rol, Scienziati e sensitivi, perché così nemici?* [Rol, G.A., Rol, Scientists and Psychics, Why Such Enemies?] 11/07/1986, p. 3.

The well-known theologian, priest, psychologist, and researcher of paranormal phenomena Andreas Resch, founder of Paranormology, reports:

“In the realm of the paranormal, there are spontaneous phenomena; and I cannot, even as a medium or a person with abilities [capable of performing paranormal phenomena], create suddenly, let’s say, the formation of an object, a painting, or something else.

This has to materialize, and here lies the problem with paranormal research: we cannot use repetitive experiments because the phenomenon is singular and accidental.”⁴⁵

Even Rol himself initially states: *“I have tried several times to use the power of thought to achieve what would suddenly happen to me in the form of a raptus, a psychic alteration, but in vain. These are forces that I cannot summon at will.”⁴⁶*

And again, in another book by Maria Luisa Giordano, who knew Rol and wrote several books about him, while discussing Pranotherapy, she quotes Rol's words: *“You must act with spontaneity: if you concentrate, the higher divine forces cannot act, they encounter obstacles.”⁴⁷*

The paranormal, therefore, includes phenomena that occur spontaneously, without an apparent immediate rational or scientific explanation. A person with paranormal abilities cannot perform paranormal phenomena on command. In Rol's case⁴⁸, these events (as well as atypical situations) naturally manifest through a sort of "system" of causality that in some way resembles the concept of synchronicity developed by Carl Gustav Jung, where events that seem like coincidences or occur spontaneously actually follow an unseen pattern, or at least one not yet recognizable to the human eye. And in Rol's case, he himself, in certain situations, did not immediately see the "complete" picture but arrived at it later or through a series of events that happened in "harmony." In the article written for Gente magazine: *«Everything I*

⁴⁵ Andreas Resch, in: Rol - *A world behind the world* (2007) Directed by Bongiorno, Niccolò [Documentary]. Milan, CA: Allegria Films SRL. "(From minute 52:02 to 52:45. The explanation at minute 47:58 to 48:42 is also recommended)." Available at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aaeFV_IPD8M&ab_channel=RosaSteiner [Accessed 2024, May 1].

⁴⁶ Maria Luisa Giordano (2013). *Rol e l'altra dimensione* [Rol and the Other Dimension]. Milano: BUR. p. 113.

⁴⁷ Maria Luisa Giordano (2014). *L'uomo che si fa medicina. La mia esperienza di pranoterapeuta e gli insegnamenti di Rol* [The Man Who Becomes Medicine. My Experience as a Pranotherapist and the Teachings of Rol], Torino: L'Età dell'Aquario. p. 127.

⁴⁸ In the case of Rol, Maria Luisa Giordano also confirms that Rol could not act on command. See Maria Luisa Giordano (2013). *Rol e l'altra dimensione* [Rol and the Other Dimension]. Milano: BUR. p. 46. And this is just one of many examples.

*do is spontaneous, directed to benefit someone, or done for some reason that time will later reveal. »*⁴⁹

According to the writer of this articles, science in the future must definitely take these spontaneous factors into account and open up to disciplines and studies that also include various aspects of the spirit.

Continuing, still in the articles written for Gente, Rol also confirms that he is not able to adhere to a precise scheme or "*code or establish precise rules on the way Rol acts,*" but he let it well be understood the relevant factors in this process: the role of the spirit, the existence of universal principles that must not be transgressed, and the importance of being in balance together in harmony with all that exists:

*“A person who had known Rol for many years told me: 'I had the fortune to observe him closely, and he often confided his thoughts to me. I was always astonished by the vastness of things he could do; however, if I had to compile a code or establish precise rules on the way Rol acts, I would not be able to do it. «He told me, however, that anything is possible for our spirit as long as, and without exception, the universal principles of a harmony that binds everything that exists towards a unified purpose are not transgressed. ”*⁵⁰

To summarize what was previously discussed, it becomes clear that Rol was not the "master" of his abilities, but rather did "harmonize" with spontaneous events and various situations around him, taking into account universal principles in balance with each other. It was as if certain events passed from and through Rol.

Therefore, it is not possible to repeat paranormal phenomena like "pressing a button," but they require a harmony of various factors and careful work on consciousness, along with the study of the spirit (and in Rol's case, it also involves the Intelligent Spirit). All this implies factors and ways of being that, as mentioned earlier, most of today's science still does not truly take into account.

In conclusion, from what has been discussed earlier, one can better understand the reasons why Rol saw himself only as a means, or using Rol's own words, as a "drainpipe,"

⁴⁹ Franco, Rol (2023): *L'uomo dell' impossibile [The Unbelievable Gustavo Adolfo Rol]* volume VI, Lulu Press, p. 306-307.

⁵⁰ Ibidem. Certainly, to approach the possibilities of the spirit, always in harmony with the universe, it would be necessary to analyze higher concepts expressed by Rol, such as the concept of the Intelligent Spirit. For an introductory idea, the reader is also referred to Franco Rol's writings, which provide an adequate explanation on this topic in the FAQ section of his website: <https://www.gustavorol.org/index.php/en/> [Accessed 2024, May 5].

merely a tool to help his fellow man, encouraging people to seek elsewhere. Looking at this phrase again:

« I necessarily must act with 'spontaneity', almost 'according to the impulse of an unknown order' as Goethe said. I have defined myself 'the drainpipe that brings the water falling from the roof'. It is therefore not the drainpipe that must be analyzed, but instead the water and the reasons for which 'that rain' is manifested. Studying these kinds of phenomena at their conclusions does not permit establishing their essence, but instead one must look higher to where the 'intelligent spirit' that is already a part of that Wonder that must not necessarily be identified with God to recognize its existence. In the Wonder, there is the Harmony encapsulated by Everything, and this definition is valid for those who admit and those who deny God. »⁵¹

An analysis of this thought only certainly offers several ideas on where to begin searching, for example, a research perspective that involves the philosophy of human existence or, better yet, metaphysics, leading to the exploration of themes related to spirituality or, especially, the study of the figure of God. Rol himself, in various situations, always emphasized that his abilities came from "up there," always attributing his abilities to the figure of God, defining himself merely as a "drainpipe," a tool.

Finally, among other things, Rol often emphasized the importance of prayer and reading the Gospel,⁵² perhaps as a means to "find oneself in God?" Could this possibly be a way to analyze "that Rain"? It is hoped that this phrase of Rol can be developed in more depth later on.

Rol: Some References on "Sacred Science"

The concept of associating Rol with the notion of sacred science, recognizing him as an enlightened master on a par with Eastern traditions such as Yoga, through Sublime Consciousness and the awakening of Kundalini, primarily comes from the studies of Franco Rol. In these studies, it is evident how Rol was in perfect harmony with this, thus, we refer

⁵¹ Letter by Rol published in the newspaper La Stampa: Rol, G.A.; *Rol, G.A., La Scienza non può ancora analizzare lo Spirito* [Science Cannot Yet Analyze the Spirit], 03/09/1978, p. 3. The translation comes from the official website gustavorol.org

⁵² Gustavo Adolfo Rol (2000): *Io sono la grondaia... Diari, Lettere, riflessioni* a cura di Catterina Ferrari [*I Am the Drainpipe... Diaries, Letters, Reflections* edited by Catterina Ferrari], 1rd ed., Prato: Giunti Editore. p. 7 e p. 201.

again to what Franco Rol writes.

As mentioned at the beginning, here we will try to highlight some of the central aspects with practical references to give the reader a more concrete idea of Rol's relationship with the metaphysical and Eastern world.

One of the points in common with Rol's profile seems to be the concept of joy. Also, in the article in the magazine Gente, Franco Rol indicates how the word "joy" is a relevant element in which to place Rol's profile, "The «Joy» is a characteristic element of the state of sublime consciousness, as ānanda is of sāmādhī."⁵³ The nuances of the concept of joy will be revisited later.

Samadhi, a term from Indian spiritual traditions, particularly in yoga and Buddhism, represents a fundamental goal on the path towards deep realization and awareness, in relation to spiritual growth. It is the aim and objective for the practitioner. And it is precisely here, among other things, that the profile of Gustavo Adolfo Rol should be placed, along with the concept of sublime consciousness.

One of the key concepts in Rol's thought to highlight — along with the importance of the figure of God in every aspect of life — is the state he described as "Sublime Consciousness":

« The state of sublime consciousness is union with the Absolute, the Everything, an entirety without any form of separation. To be one with the universe in harmony with the Infinite. To recognize in all events, in every image, to see in all things the divine manifestation.

*God is the supreme Creator and the infinite ocean in which the universe exists».*⁵⁴

And again, Rol:

"The 'sublime consciousness' is a stage you must necessarily pass through, under penalty of losing your way."^{55 56}

⁵³ Franco, Rol (2023): *L' uomo dell' impossibile [The Unbelievable Gustavo Adolfo Rol] volume VI*, Lulu Press, p. 306. Originating from Sanskrit, the term 'Ananda' denotes concepts of 'joy,' 'bliss,' 'delight,' and 'happiness.' In Hinduism, it is considered a type of spiritual and transcendent bliss. It represents an experience of elevated joy and spiritual fulfillment. The importance of this term will be revisited later.

⁵⁴ Maria Luisa Giordano (2014). *L'uomo che si fa medicina. La mia esperienza di pranoterapeuta e gli insegnamenti di Rol* The Man Who Becomes Medicine. [My Experience as a Pranotherapist and the Teachings of Rol], Torino: L' Età dell' Aquario. p. 135. Some parts of the translation come from the official website, gustavorol.org

⁵⁵ Gustavo Adolfo Rol (2000): *Io sono la grondaia... Diari, Lettere, riflessioni* a cura di Catterina Ferrari [*I Am the Drainpipe... Diaries, Letters, Reflections* edited by Catterina Ferrari], 1st ed., Prato: Giunti Editore. p. 160.

⁵⁶ And the following phrase: "The sublime consciousness is an advanced level on the path of soul knowledge, beyond that sphere of instinct explored by Freud." in: Franco, Rol (2023): *L' uomo dell' impossibile [The Unbelievable Gustavo Adolfo Rol] volume VI*, Lulu Press, p. 62. This is a phrase taken from Remo Lugli,

These are just a few of the phrases and concepts about sublime consciousness that Rol has left behind, and it is hoped that in the future this concept can be appropriately explored in more depth. The aim here is to give the reader a more concrete idea of where to start.

Therefore, we refer to the studies of Franco Rol and the texts by Maria Luisa Giordano and Carla Perotti. Additionally, Carla Perotti, a renowned writer, journalist, and yoga teacher who also knew Rol personally, should be mentioned, as she placed him on a par with a master of ancient traditions.⁵⁷

Based on the literature on Rol, it is possible to see how he, through a path of evolution and spiritual growth, reached a state of Enlightenment, described with the term Sublime Consciousness. A state similar to that of a Buddha, an Enlightened being, called in other traditions, such as in Hinduism, Samadhi, Nirvana in Buddhism, or Satori in Japanese Zen Buddhism. The Sublime Consciousness, as noted by Franco Rol, is perfectly in harmony with the teachings of a sacred science and a metaphysical tradition that has always existed throughout human history. A path open to every person regardless of creed, religion, culture, and background.

In other words, using different terminology suitable for the people of his time, Rol merely refers to a metaphysical path and tradition that has existed for millennia. The experiments, abilities, and wonders demonstrated by Rol are proof of this. These correspond to the Hindu term Siddhi:

*„ A realized Master, in fact, is someone who has reached a high spiritual level and at the same time has demonstrated having these abilities, which in the Christian context are generally called charisms or gifts of the Spirit, and in the East Siddhi, or accomplishments/realizations (and in this case, one can speak of a Siddha Guru) ... ”.*⁵⁸

To summarize, the inner path⁵⁹ taken by Gustavo Rol led him to the abilities that were so often discussed, thanks also to reaching a state similar to Samadhi, in harmony with sacred

originally from Lorenzo Rappelli (from a debate-conference on 11/16/1969). The phrase in question might have been picked up by Lugli on the suggestion of Rol, Rappelli, or even Riccardi. For further details, see: Franco, Rol (2022): *L' uomo dell' impossibile* [*The Unbelievable Gustavo Adolfo Rol*] volume V, Lulu Press, p. 261.

⁵⁷ Carla, Perotti (2013). *Gustavo Rol il mio primo maestro* [*Gustavo Rol, My First Teacher*], Torino: Libreria Editrice Psiche. E, Giordano, Maria Luisa (2013): *Rol e l'altra dimensione* [*Rol and the Other Dimension*], 2nd ed., Bergamo: BUR. Please keep in mind, additional texts, besides those already mentioned by Franco Rol.

⁵⁸ Gustavo Adolfo Rol – Enlightened spiritual master. (n.d.). <https://www.gustavorol.org/index.php/en/> [Accessed 2024, May 7].

⁵⁹ One could also say, in some ways, an “initiation” path, but to delve deeper into this concept, reference is made to the previously mentioned authors. Additionally, reference is made to these authoritative authors in the field of

science. This ancient spiritual-metaphysical tradition has always existed and is present in all true religions.⁶⁰

In all this, it is important to emphasize again that these Siddhis also exist in the Christian tradition under the name of Charisms. They are nothing but an unintended natural consequence—and not the goal to seek—with relative importance, reached through a stage of growth in accordance with sacred science, as seen in the example of Samadhi. And in this "process," as seen in the case of Rol, joy seems to be an integral part, something that is also partly recognized in a verse from the Bhagavad Gita:

*“This knowledge is the king of education, the most secret of all secrets. It is the purest knowledge, and because it gives direct perception of the self by realization, it is the perfection of religion. It is everlasting, and it is joyfully performed.”*⁶¹

In addition, Rol, emphasizing the importance of joy, during one of his rare interviews, told the writer and journalist Roberto Gervaso:

Gervaso: Under what impulses do you act?

Rol: Those dictated by the circumstances.

Gervaso: Please explain.

Rol: I find myself suddenly, and infinitely, available. A state that cannot be described.

Gervaso: Try to describe it.

Rol: A kind of tenderness, of joy just as the miracle happens, always for a reason that is revealed later.

Gervaso: Do you act spontaneously?

Rol: Yes.⁶²

metaphysics: Julius Evola (1898 - 1974) and René Guénon (1886 - 1951). All their works are certainly of great utility.

⁶⁰ Hinduism and the science of Yoga undoubtedly offer a good starting point. Another important aspect is the annihilation of one's Ego and the "work" on one's consciousness. Making a brief excursus, the author at this point wonders if perhaps entering "the kingdom of heaven," as referred to by Jesus, could be interpreted as equivalent to Samadhi.

⁶¹ Bhagavad-gita As It Is. His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada. Text 9.2

The text of the Bhagavad-gita is available for free on the official platform, provided here:

<http://www.prabhupada-books.de/translations-en.html> (This is certainly not the only verse. It is hoped that in the future, in a separate work, other comparisons of Rol's thoughts with other religions can be made) [Accessed 2024, June10].

⁶² Gervaso, Roberto. (1979). *La pulce nell'orecchio*. Interviste famose [A Flea in the Ear. Famous Interviews], Milano: ZOVVO Rusconi. P. 294.

During the course of the interview, Rol also explains how he himself is not able to repeat the phenomena on command, inviting science to take an interest in phenomena that apparently cannot be measured. It is

In this brief excerpt from the interview, Rol once again highlights how joy "is part of" the dynamics of the experiments, also clearly marking the fact that it is related to a greater purpose or well-being. Moreover, it is evident here as well that Rol had to act spontaneously based on the circumstances that presented themselves to him, and not on command as some researchers would have liked. All this serves to give the reader an initial, practical idea of the relationship between Rol and Sacred Science.

To conclude with a digression, the concept of joy, according to the writer of this text, can be linked to the concept of *purity of heart*.⁶³ It seems to be a state of being, similar to that of children. And this closely recalls the words of another immense figure in the spiritual journey, that of Jesus: "At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, 'Who then is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven'. He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. And he said: « *Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever will become as small as this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.* »"⁶⁴ Certainly, the figure of Jesus and his highest teachings, along with the great example he left us – regardless of a person's faith – is a great support for those who wish to embark on these disciplines.

A careful analysis and key interpretation of concepts, words, and parables expressed by Jesus, in relation to a metaphysical path, can be found in the books, comments, and lectures of other great figures in the metaphysical field such as *Paramahansa Yogananda* and *Sai Baba*.

For readers who wish to delve deeper into the matter, the lectures of Sai Baba available online and the texts: "The Yoga of Jesus", "Man's eternal quest" and "Autobiography of a Yogi" by Paramahansa Yogananda will surely be useful (the latter especially for approaching the mechanisms of meditation from a spiritual-scientific perspective).⁶⁵

recommended to read the entire interview to get a better picture. This interview clearly highlights Rol's thinking. A reconstruction of this interview is available at the following link. This is based on extra material from the well-known documentary, Rol: A World Behind the World, Buendia Films, filmed by Nicolás Bongiorno: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fiXdshRMB_I&ab_channel=RosaSteiner [Accessed 2024, May 10].

⁶³ The concept of "purity of heart" is already explored in Franco Rol's studies. Moreover, related to this theme is a phone call Rol had with journalist and writer Giuditta Dembech. During the last phone call with the writer, Rol mentions the importance of purity of heart: « "... You know very well: Plato, we have already told you many times: 'To live, to be pure of heart and to die...' ". That is to make our spirit immortal, which is essentially what Christ said five centuries later... Goodbye." » The concept of purity of heart undoubtedly plays a central role in Rol's dynamics that underpin it and, according to the writer, it also combines with the concept of the "drainpipe" or rather as an aspect/state of being that is part of the drainpipe. This is a concept that certainly deserves further exploration in future studies.

⁶⁴ Matthew 18:1-5, Matthew 18:10-14 (Bible).

⁶⁵ Yogananda, P. (2007). The yoga of Jesus: understanding the hidden teachings of the gospels: selections from the writings of Paramahansa Yogananda. Self-Realization Fellowship. Paramahansa Yogananda. (2009).

Continuing, returning again to the concept of joy in harmony with a metaphysical path, or rather, in relation to Yoga combined with meditation, the words of Yogananda's master, Swami Sri Yukteswar, also resonate:

*"After the mind has been cleared by Kriya Yoga of sensory obstacles, meditation furnishes a twofold proof of God. Ever-new joy is evidence of His existence, convincing to our very atoms. Also, in meditation one finds His constant guidance, His adequate response to every difficulty."*⁶⁶

Words that surely open the doors to other great truths that one hopes to explore in another study, such as the process of "purification" through meditation and the development of an "inner compass" through the approach-relationship with the Divine.

Finally, it is interesting to note how even Saint Padre Pio, as reported by Father Eusebio Notte in his book "Padre Pio e Padre Eusebio. Briciole di storia, [Padre Pio and Father Eusebio. Crumbs of History]" invited people to pray with a joyful disposition: "Our God is the God of joy!... Do not bore the Lord!"⁶⁷ With this reference, it can also be seen how through a state of "joy" one can simplify the approach to the divine and the supernatural.⁶⁸

Autobiography of a Yogi. The Floating Press / SRF (Self-Realization Fellowship). An example of a lecture by Sai Baba on this topic, translated by Maria Cristina Zorzi (in Italian with original subtitles in English), can be found at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ItueiW-Me3g> (Title: SAI BABA SPEAKS ABOUT JESUS - CHRISTMAS DISCOURSE 1996) [Accessed 2024, April 7].

⁶⁶ Sri Yukteswar, from the book, Autobiography of a Yogi. This is just one of many examples. The book certainly provides an excellent foundation to start with.

⁶⁷ Padre Eusebio Notte (2008). Padre Pio e Padre Eusebio. Briciole di storia, [Padre Pio and Father Eusebio. Crumbs of History] Foggia: Grafiche Grilli.

⁶⁸ There is a curious similarity found in this book regarding the number 5, a very important number in the figure and experiments of Rol. In fact, Rol always attached great importance to the number 5, attributing to it a "special" role for entering a state of harmony, in which the experiments took place (Rol even wanted the number 5 displayed at the entrance of his home). For those who wish to delve deeper, refer to the studies of Franco Rol. Returning to the similarity with the number 5, Father Eusebio reports on Padre Pio's residence: "..., and it was adjacent to No. 5 of Padre Pio: here the Father lived his intimate moments – today we would say privacy – both with the Lord and with some person with whom he had confidence." (Padre Pio e Padre Eusebio. Briciole di storia, [Padre Pio and Father Eusebio. Crumbs of History], Foggia: Grafiche Grilli, p. 249).

The author, Father Eusebio, was daily close to Padre Pio for 5 years and – in addition to faithfully reporting the injustices and tribulations caused by the Church to Padre Pio – he mentions that at night Padre Pio slept in room number 1, but as can be seen, for example, on page 167: [Padre Pio] He was a teacher who taught everywhere. His lectern was represented by "any place," at any time. He was truly a peripatetic teacher. The ancient Greek wisdom was Christianized by him. Finally, it was time to retreat to his room for an hour. His true cell was number 5, opposite the chapel.

What did he do during this time? He read some letters, wrote some notes, and then... I don't know. I noticed that he came out of the room with a ruddy face, a fresh look, and captivating eyes!

Rol: Brief Allusions on the Importance of God

Even in this case, it is certainly not possible to explain the relationship and contact between Rol and God (which recalls the writings of the saints) in just a few pages, so some general information and texts will be highlighted as a possible starting point.

Rol was a practicing Catholic, very devoted to the Consolata in Turin, a place where he was often seen praying. Several journalists report that Rol prayed for people in very difficult situations and often gave a small picture of the Madonna with the Child Jesus to the people he met.

As seen earlier in the definition of the Sublime Consciousness, we have already had the opportunity to notice the importance of the figure of God in Rol's thinking⁶⁹ in a few lines. Moreover, in the article written by Allegri and edited by Rol, another crucial point emerges to understand who Rol was and his beliefs:

“Rol deeply believes in God, in a God who encompasses all religions. In this regard, he says: 'I am a Christian. I have learned this way of thinking since childhood, and throughout my life it has always been of immense help to me. Perhaps I have never detached myself from the figure of Christ out of a sort of selfishness, but I must acknowledge that it is precisely by drawing inspiration from the thoughts of Jesus that I have been able to understand and justify the ethics of any reasoning that is enlightened by the fundamental principles of charity and hope.’”⁷⁰

In this observation, Rol's profound faith in God clearly emerges, with significant importance attributed to Jesus, whom he conceives as being present in every type of reasoning and embodied in fundamental values. To have a clearer idea of how there is one God who encompasses all religions, it is evident in another part of the interview with Gervaso:

⁶⁹ «The state of sublime consciousness is union with the Absolute, the Everything, an entirety without any form of separation. To be one with the universe in harmony with the Infinite. To recognize in all events, in every image, to see in all things the divine manifestation. God is the supreme Architect and the infinite ocean in which the universe exists. » in: M. Luisa Giordano (2014). *L'uomo che si fa medicina. La mia esperienza di pranoterapeuta e gli insegnamenti di Rol* [The Man Who Becomes Medicine. My Experience as a Pranotherapist and the Teachings of Rol], Torino: L' Età dell'Aquario. p. 135. Part of the translation also comes from the official website: gustavorol.org.

⁷⁰ Franco, Rol (2023). *L' uomo dell' impossibile* [The Unbelievable Gustavo Adolfo Rol] volume VI, Lulu Press, p. 306-307.

Gervaso: Do you agree with Schopenhauer when he says that religions are like fireflies: to shine, they need darkness?

Rol: No. I rather agree with Einstein.

Gervaso: With Einstein?

Rol: Yes, who defined light as "the shadow of God." True religions arise from the light, and in the light, they are exalted.

Gervaso: Is there one religion, or are there many?⁷¹

Rol: Every religion with moral inspiration has the same goals.

Making a brief digression, according to the writer, after reading these sentences, it is worth mentioning this quote from Ramakrishna to avoid religious fanaticism or pride, which unfortunately lead to conflicts, wars, and useless disputes: "*God is one, but His names are many.*"⁷² Regardless of the type of faith, there is, using Rol's words, "*a God who encompasses all religions.*" All other religions are merely different paths to reach God. A God who uses different garments according to the culture and civilization of a people, in order to support man during his journey in this life, in a world that is still unfortunately too blind and too often torn apart by wars and violence, in the name of a God whom men ignore or prefer not to understand – as is unfortunately happening these days in the East or in the case of extremist religious organizations that sow destruction – ignoring the true essence (and sacred science) of all religions and the field of metaphysics; a significant field also present in Rol's thought: "*Metaphysics asserts that the human being is the center of the universe.*"⁷³

Returning to the article in the magazine Gente, to summarize, Rol identifies himself as a Christian and claims to have drawn inspiration from the figure of Jesus to understand and

⁷¹ Gervaso, Roberto. (1979). *La pulce nell'orecchio*. Interviste famose [A Flea in the Ear. Famous Interviews], Milano: ZOVVO Rusconi. P. 287.

⁷² Sri Ramakrishna (Thursday, August 24, 1882) Taken from: https://ramakrishnavivekananda.info/gospel/volume_1/04_advice_to_householders.htm. And: "I see people who talk about religion constantly quarrelling with one another. Hindus, Mussalmans, Brahmos, Shaktas, Vaishnavas, Saivas, all quarrel with one another. They haven't the intelligence to understand that He who is called Krishna is also Shiva and the Primal Śakti, and that it is He, again, who is called Jesus and Allah. There is only one Rāma and He has a thousand names." in: <https://wordandsilence.com/2013/05/15/the-gospel-of-sri-ramakrishna-favorite-passages/> and <https://ramakrishna.org/shoprk.html> (and also: <https://publications.rkmm.org/>) [All Accessed 2024, June 10].

⁷³ M. Luisa Giordano (2014). *L'uomo che si fa medicina. La mia esperienza di pranoterapeuta e gli insegnamenti di Rol* [The Man Who Becomes Medicine. My Experience as a Pranotherapist and the Teachings of Rol], Torino: L' Età dell'Aquario. p. 136 Also related to the topic is a metaphysical thought in: Gustavo Adolfo Rol (2000). *Io sono la grondaia... Diari, Lettere, riflessioni* [I Am the Drainpipe... Diaries, Letters, Reflections] edited by Catterina Ferrari, Prato: Giunti Editore. p. 216.

justify ethics based on values – which Rol also embodied during his life – such as charity and hope.

Through these words alone, it becomes clear that Rol was certainly not – as is often unfortunately erroneously read by poorly informed people – a spiritualist, magician, sideshow performer, or a member of some unknown sect.

Central is also his conviction towards Jesus, in relation to understanding “*and justify the ethics of any reasoning*” ethical understanding, illuminated by the principles mentioned earlier. Moreover, to further highlight Rol's religious beliefs to the skeptical reader, in response to the question posed by journalist Gervaso during the interview, Rol states:

Gervaso: Do you have faith?

Rol: «Yes. I believe in a single God, the creator of the universe.

And as already seen before, the figure of Jesus remains undoubtedly a key point in Rol's character, which is also reaffirmed in the interview with Gervaso:

"My secrets? They are all in the Bible. »⁷⁴

Quoting Franco Rol again, the positive opinion and esteem of several well-known journalists and ecclesiastics, such as Cardinal and later Archbishop Maurilio Fossati or Andrea Bava, also clearly emerge: “*there are noted personal accounts of the esteem of members of the clergy, like Maurilio Fossati, who was the Archbishop of Turin, or Don Andrea Bava, who preached in the San Vito parochial church.*”⁷⁵

It should also be noted that Rol had contact with various representatives of the Catholic Church, including at the time Pope Pius XII and especially Saint Pio of Pietrelcina⁷⁶ in San Giovanni Rotondo, whom he held in high regard. He even had a photograph of him above his desk, along with one of the parish priest of San Secondo di Pinerolo, Father

⁷⁴ Gervaso, Roberto. (1979). *La pulce nell'orecchio*. Interviste famose [A Flea in the Ear. Famous Interviews], Milano: ZOVVO Rusconi. P. 287.

⁷⁵ www.gustavorol.org. (n.d.). Gustavo Adolfo Rol – Enlightened Spiritual Master. FAQ. [online] Available at: <https://www.gustavorol.org/index.php/en/>. [Accessed 2024, June 3].

⁷⁶ It should also be mentioned that Rol and Padre Pio met personally in San Giovanni Rotondo, and Rol was received by the friar. For those who wish to explore further, the following text is recommended: *Il Mistero e la Fede. Gustavo Rol e Padre Pio da Pietrelcina* [Mystery and Faith. Gustavo Rol and Padre Pio of Pietrelcina], Vincenzo Mercante, Edizioni Segno, 2006.

Giovanni Battista Martina, whom Rol considered a saint, and also Father Eugenio Ferrarotti, a priest from Turin and later an exorcist in Genoa.⁷⁷

Among other things, many report his devotion to the saints and religious figures of the Catholic Church. Rol recounts having received graces from Saint Maria Domenica Mazzarello, Saint Pancras, the Madonna, Jesus, and God in general.⁷⁸

Continuing, other writers and journalists such as Vittorio Messori and Monica Mondo also give a more than positive opinion of Rol regarding his faith:

“The Catholic writer Vittorio Messori, who knew Rol, wrote in 2004 that his life was “a life not only of a principled gentleman, but also of a practicing believer, who could often be found in one of the chapels praying in the shadow of the Virgin Mary... If he cared to know me it was because he wanted to congratulate me for the “Catholic” things I wrote and confirmed to me several times – also during the very last phone call he made to me – that he fully acknowledged the orthodoxy of the Church.”⁷⁹

And furthermore:

“ The journalist from the publication Avvenire Monica Mondo, who knew Rol, wrote in the Catholic newspaper that she had “recited quite a few Hail Mary's” with him, and that “he never drew attention to himself or asked anything for himself, and he truly only wanted to do good for others, to help the sick, lend money, a good word or use his gifts, which he himself could not explain (he would say they were a gift from God, and that he had to acknowledge this and use them for God’s purpose).”⁸⁰

Among the various testimonies, it is also necessary to mention that of Don Piero Gallo, former parish priest of the Church of Saints Peter and Paul in San Salvator, the neighborhood where Rol lived. He conveys a positive opinion of Rol through the testimonies of those who knew him in the neighborhood.

⁷⁷ www.gustavorol.org. (n.d.). Gustavo Adolfo Rol – Enlightened Spiritual Master. FAQ. [online] Available at: <https://www.gustavorol.org/index.php/en/>. [Accessed 2024, June 3].

⁷⁸ Rol, F. (2013). Il simbolismo di Rol [The Symbolism of Rol]. Lulu.com. 503-504 e Rol, F. (2015). L’Uomo dell’Impossibile [The Unbelievable Gustavo Adolfo Rol] Volume II. Lulu.com. p. 643. This source also once again reveals Rol's esteem and admiration for Padre Pio, mentioning interesting events that occurred during their meeting.

⁷⁹ Rol, F. (2015). L’Uomo dell’Impossibile [The Unbelievable Gustavo Adolfo Rol] Volume II. Lulu Press. p. 640.

⁸⁰ www.gustavorol.org. (n.d.). Gustavo Adolfo Rol – Enlightened Master . [online] Available at: <https://www.gustavorol.org/index.php/en/>. FAQ (10) [Accessed 2024, June 1].

Later, during the brief meeting at the Molinette hospital shortly before Rol's death, Don Piero Gallo, who was called to administer the last sacraments to Rol, stated that Rol had “*had shined the brilliance of God in many places*”, and that he was “*an extraordinary man...*”⁸¹. Don Gallo also reported how Rol was a man of charity, affection, humility, and always enthusiastic despite life's sufferings. He praised Rol's faith in Mary, also emphasizing how Rol attributed his gifts and powers to God: “*for having traced his powers back to God.*”⁸² Finally, an additional contribution comes from Nico Orengo, another journalist who was already writing about Gustavo Adolfo Rol in 1994. “*Deeply religious, I believe he belongs to the tradition of the 'lay saints' of Piedmont, like Frassati and Savio...*”⁸³

It can therefore be deduced that, with what has been seen and confirmed by various authoritative sources, anyone who is skeptical or has doubts about Rol's adherence to Catholicism, or especially anyone who is uncertain about Rol's belief in God, can realize the opposite here, through what has been described about his faith and commitment to others.

To provide further proof of what was seen earlier, in addition to the good Rol did for others, the priest Don Piero Gallo, in the article by journalist Umberto Rossi, reports what happened on the day he went to visit Rol in the hospital during his last days of life:

*“I approached him, whispered the name of Mary, of the Consolata, and he immediately shuddered, opening his eyes wide and giving me an intense and approving look, accompanied by a faint smile for having spoken to him about the Madonna. A few days later, at the parish, I celebrated the funeral rite in the presence of no fewer than 400 prominent figures (including distinguished clinicians, university professors, entrepreneurs, journalists, writers, actors, and directors, etc.) and many common people who had benefited economically or physically from his therapeutic and diagnostic powers. Many of them later came to speak to me, sharing their personal experiences with Rol, both up close and from a distance, giving me the opportunity to learn about the legend of Rol even before books and various articles were published.”*⁸⁴

⁸¹ Ibidem.

⁸² Ibidem.

⁸³ N. Orengo (1994). *Una vita vissuta per incanto. Il Mago Rol*, [A Life Lived by Enchantment. The Magician Rol weekly magazine] Grazia, Arnoldo Mondadori (settimanale del 16/10/1994) p. 250.

⁸⁴ Rossi, U. Dottor Gustavo Adolfo Rol: la ‘leggenda’ continua [Doctor Gustavo Adolfo Rol: The ‘Legend’ Continues]. *Il Nuovo Piccolo di Pinerolo*, p.24. and also here: [www.youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bSrPsCcEZf4). (n.d.). *A priest visits G.A. Rol before his death*. [online] Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bSrPsCcEZf4> [Accessed 5 Apr. 2024].

In conclusion, summarizing what has been seen before through the various interviews, articles, and testimonies of qualified individuals, Rol's statements, in addition to confirming his religious beliefs and thoughts, leave no room for associating him with magicians, sleight of hand tricks, spiritualism, sects, or any kind of secret organizations or movements.

Conclusion

Let's return to the initial questions: Who really was Gustavo Adolfo Rol? What was the origin of his experiments? What do the witnesses report? After presenting the words taken directly from Rol himself and comparing them with the accounts of some witnesses, biographers, ecclesiastics, and notable journalists, we believe the reader can now have a concrete idea of what Rol was or, at the very least, what he was not.

Rol was not a magician or anything similar and did not profit from his experiments. He always used his abilities, which he considered part of a sacred science open to everyone, solely for the benefit of others and without ever deriving any profit. Through his experiments and meetings with journalists and notable figures, Rol consistently highlighted and encouraged people to reflect on the figure and importance of God, attributing his experiments or "powers" to Him. He always considered himself merely an instrument, a conduit, to help others.

Summarizing some of the key points discussed, it can be stated:

- a) Rol never received a single cent from his experiments.
- b) His motivations and actions were always aimed at helping others, often acting on impulse based on the circumstances.
- c) The factor of spontaneity and randomness is undoubtedly a key point that science must take into account.
- d) The thought and significance of God and attributing the basis of his experiments to Him is an integral part of his philosophy. And this brings us to the following point.
- e) Rol was not a spiritualist, magician, parapsychologist, healer, or any kind of illusionist. It is a world from which he has always distanced himself, categorically stating that he was not part of it. The testimonies of trustworthy ecclesiastics and writers amply demonstrate this.

As mentioned at the beginning, this brief text does not aim to explain all the mysteries behind Rol's thought and profile, but it has sought, at the very least, to indicate, where deemed

appropriate, a possible starting point for the reader who is about to delve deeper into the figure of Rol.

To avoid possible misunderstandings, we have deliberately used material and interviews that collect the words spoken by Rol himself; however, it is advisable not to focus solely on a specific piece of text or word but to also consider the entire context and source where Rol made his statements.

Finally, we would like to again direct the reader to the official website on Gustavo Adolfo Rol, from which most of the insights and concepts presented in these pages are derived. Look at the FAQ section with the following question: “Who was Gustavo Adolfo Rol?”⁸⁵

A spiritual Master of Christian-Catholic orientation, who lived in Italy in the twentieth century (1903-1994), gifted with many “paranormal powers”, which he defined as “possibilities”. A man from a wealthy family, he earned several degrees (Law, Economics, Clinical-Medical Biology), was always elegantly dressed and possessed an encyclopedic body of knowledge; a lover of the arts, he played the violin and piano, and was a painter and antiquarian, after having worked as a banker for a decade during his younger years. He met many famous people from his century during his lifetime, from heads of state to artists, as well as many common people from all professions and walks of life. He always placed his “possibilities” at the service of his fellow man.

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In case of citing the text, please reference the source.**

In the following link - a Facebook group managed by the author of this text - you'll find additional information and subtitled videos about Rol in English, Spanish, German, and French:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/3726150134197811/>

Gustavo Adolfo Rol (International)

⁸⁵ In the official website: Gustavo Adolfo Rol – The Enlightened. (n.d.). Gustavorol.org.
<https://gustavorol.org/index.php/en/> [Accessed 2024, May 5].